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Ernesto moves across southeastern Mexico as tropical storm

CANCUN, Mexico (AFP) - Tropical storm Ernesto pummeled the Yucatan Peninsula yesterday, downing trees and power lines as forecasters predicted it could pick up strength across Mexico's oil-rich Bay of Campeche.

The storm, which made landfall as a category one hurricane before being downgraded to a tropical storm, dumped heavy rain on the region, prompting fears of flash floods and mudslides.

The airport of Chetumal, a city of 151,000, reported minor damage. In Majahual, a small town with a growing tourism industry where Ernesto made landfall, businesses suffered some damage.

Power outages were reported in the walled city of Campeche, a world heritage site on the west coast of the Yucatan Peninsula facing the Gulf of Mexico, and authorities warned its 300,000 residents to be prepared to batten down.

The Bay of Campeche is the center of Mexico's vital offshore oil fields.

"Pemex said that it was canceling some training exercises at oil rigs, but otherwise all operations in the region were normal," energy analyst Addison Armstrong of Tradition Energy said.

While Ernesto was predicted to weaken further as it moved over land "some re-strengthening is expected after the center moves back over the Bay of Campeche tonight," it said.

"Hurricane conditions are possible ... Thursday," it added.

The Yucatan Peninsula is home to bustling holiday destinations such as the resort city of Cancun and the island of Cozumel, but authorities in Quintana Roo state said there were few tourists in the area where the storm hit.

Nevertheless, state tourism secretary Juan Carlos Gonzalez said more than 200 emergency shelters had been set up to accommodate more than 80,000 people if necessary.

Mexico's defense ministry said it had mobilized about 1,000 soldiers to remain on alert in the area.

Social dialogue and reduction of water and electricity tariffs



The Social Dialogue is a method of negotiation used to arrive at concrete solutions of weighty problems of grave importance for the country. The key word in the entire process is "dialogue."

See more on page 3

Terminating the Aruba Student Loan is detrimental to insurance policies

THE HAGUE -- Students, who may have had their student loan terminated, often do not realize that it means their insurance coverage is also terminated. This includes the civil responsibility insurance (aansprakelijkheidsverzekering), their furniture & fixtures insurance (inboedelsverzekering), and their expatriate expenses (repatriëringkosten).

In the event they do not have civil responsibility insurance, this carries grave financial risks.

For this reason, the Department of Education at Aruba House is urging all students to pay attention to this matter. In addition to the information that students have already received, the Aruba House is making still another appeal for students to attend to this very important matter and to the importance of having adequate insurance coverage.

The student loan may be terminated for a number of reasons: perhaps the student has withdrawn from his studies for a period of time, or the student has changed majors for the second time.

In the latter situation, the government's loan will stop until the student can prove that he/she has resumed their studies successfully.

At the Aruba House, there are various known cases where students have gotten into trouble financially because the insurance was cancelled, even to the extent that a bailiff appears at their door with a warrant for collection.

Mediation for a payment arrangement is the most that Aruba House can do for a student in such cases. This kind of

problem can usually be avoided if the student really pays attention to the information presented. However, according to Samuel Dumfries of the Department of Education at Aruba House, students often take too long to ask for help, which results in the accumulation of debts. The only insurance that does not get cancelled when the study is discontinued is the health insurance. This continues to apply on an individual basis; the premium can be rather steep, however.



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Section certificates for MAVO and HAVO now valid for 10 years



The Minister of Education, Arthur Dowers has recently announced that the government has decided to extend the validity of section certificates (deelcertifikaat) to 10 years. Previously these were valid for a period of five years. Hence, the Minister is informing everyone who has section certificates and wants to complete their MAVO or HAVO diploma that their certificates are now valid for 10 years.

In the Netherlands, these certificates have long had longer validity and Minister Dowers is of the opinion that here on Aruba our people need the same opportunity and more time to complete their diploma.

It happens very often that for varying reasons people don't acquire all the required certificates within the previously allotted 5 year time frame, hence this extended time frame will make it possible for more people to complete their diploma via the 'landsexamens' and continue to develop their career with more ease.

For more information concerning the validity of section certificates as well as for 'landsexamens,' you may contact the "Examenbureau," which is a division of the Department of Education, at number 583-8684 or via email at examen@ea.aw.

Aruba Special Olympics returns victoriously from Surinam



Last weekend six Aruban athletes who competed in the National Games of Suriname at Paramaribo, returned to Aruba rejoicing in the fruits of their efforts and strenuous training. These special athletes represented Aruba in a splendid manner and returned with a number of medals.

Tuyo Werleman, director of the "Fundacion Special" Olympics, remarked that ... "we are very proud of our young people!"

Werleman, reported that... "with Digicel as our main sponsor, we succeeded in going to Suriname with six athletes, who did a marvelous job and earned several medals. The athletes Andre, Jeremiah, Anousha, Francis, Esmeralda and Diana returned very satisfied with medals for "bolas criollas," and different athletic disciplines."

According to Tuyo Werleman, the competition in Suriname was very demanding but played in a beautiful ambience. Every athlete gave their utmost and today their Special Olympics colleagues and their sponsor, as well as the Aruban community are celebrating their success.

In athletics Andre Geerman won a gold medal for running the 50m dash and a silver



medal for weight lifting. Jeremiah Ellis won bronze for running the 50m and in 5th place for softball throw. In "bolas criollas" Aruba was represented by a dynamic duo, namely, Anousha Isei and Francis Croes who won a bronze medal in the 'couples' competition. The other duo was Esmeralda Yarzagaray and Diana Mariana who gave Suriname a hard time. Esmeralda and Diana scored second place because of the time limit of the game, they won a silver medal.

Special Olympics Aruba is grateful for the excellent support of Digicel who made it possible for them to participate in this event in Suriname. The athletes are also grateful to their coaches and those who

accompanied them to Suriname. They were especially happy to have two parents go along with the team to encourage and support them.

The Aruba Special Olympics developed a relationship with Digicel way back in 2003, even before Digicel became established here on Aruba. Since back then Digicel has been a supporter of Aruba Special Olympics. One of our special athletes is also employed at Digicel for several years now.

The Morning News joins with the rest of the Aruban community in congratulating our Special Olympics team for their magnificent presentation in Suriname. Keep up the good work guys!

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Erline de Cuba celebrates her 30th anniversary in telecommunications



Recently Erline de Cuba celebrated her 30th anniversary working with Aruba's telecommunication company SETAR. Erline started working in 1982 with the Telefoondienst in the salary administration department.

In her career with SETAR she continued working in the Personnel department (PZ), to move on to the Secretariat Department, assisting in juridical matters and public Relations. At present Erline is occupying the function of Executive Secretary of the Manager of Tech-

nical Affairs department of Service.

Besides her daily functions Erline is one of the founders of PEVESA, the organization in charge of events for SETAR's employees. Erline received an envelope from her boss, Raul Ponson, Head of the Department of Technical Affairs, in presence of Elvira van der Biezen, Head of Secretariat Department and representative of Human Resource Department, Ghislaine Kock.

Pabien Erline, also from The Morning News team.

Social dialogue and reduction of water and electricity tariffs

Continued from page 1

The Social Dialogue is a method of negotiation used to arrive at concrete solutions of weighty problems of grave importance for the country. The key word in the entire process is "dialogue." Yesterday, the government of Aruba succeeded in bringing union leaders and all other social partners together to begin the process of a national social dialogue specifically to address, among them, the tariffs of water and electricity on Aruba.

Aruba has seen the resolution of a number of mayor issues at the national social dialogue table. Some of those issues were on the financial turf, social and economic. One of the most outstanding accomplishments resolved at the Social Dialogue was the reduction of the enormous pressure on the APFA Pension Fund, which has been effectively and efficiently restructured. They also succeeded in reducing the salaries and pension of our

political leaders. We saw Ministers and Parliamentarians agree to reduce their salaries in conformity with proposals forthcoming from the National Social Dialogue.

Today, the focal point is to begin reducing the need or to eliminate the government's dependence on the dividends of the utility companies – WEB and ELMAR. Many consider the dividends and the taxation of the profit from these companies as a sort of taxation in disguise.

On the other hand, it is important to emphasize that the quality of the product of these companies may not be jeopardized, and that the people ought to be guaranteed quality water and stable electricity at all times. Hence, we cannot ignore the needs that these companies have to be able to maintain or even improve on the service they provide the people of Aruba.

Heavy Fuel Oil, which is used to produce our water and electricity, remains to be

one of our concerns. There is a great deal of work being done to find ways to solve this problem in the most efficient manner possible.

At the end of the National Social Dialogue, planned for a couple of weeks ahead, everyone must come away with a concrete consensus as to how to resolve the issue in a way that would have the support of all partners.

The World Health Organization (WHO)

ranks Aruba's drinking water as meeting the highest safety standards. Please drink the water



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Aruba's weightlifter John Henriquez lifts a total of 282 kg in his first Olympic appearance

Aruba's weightlifting athlete John Henriquez had the honor to open the weightlifting competition at the London

Olympic Games. He was applauded by a huge public of about 10,000 people in Excel Center, including his family

from Aruba who made the long trip to England to be able to share this beautiful moment with John. The Aruban athlete



came out as the first participant in the "snatch discipline" category 105kg. On his first intent John lifted 115kg in the snatch, which was relatively easy. On his second intent John lifted 122 kg, and then added 5 kg to reach a total of 127 kg. John lifted this also but due to a minor error it was not honored and since this was his 3rd intent he remained at 122 kg in the snatch discipline.

In following discipline, the "clean and jerk" John started out at 150kg. Determined to surpass his personal record John moved on to 160 kg. After that he added 11 kg to reach 171 kg, but lost balance and could not complete the lift.

John was a little disappointed in not passing his personal best. Combining the snatch and clean and jerk, the Aruban lifted a total of 282kg.

John was satisfied with his all-around performance. He was also very popular among the weightlifting aficionados, with many requesting his photo and autograph.

The competition of 105kg was won by the Iranian Behdad Salimikorda who lifted a total of 455kg to snatch the gold medal.

Aruba is proud of John Henriquez who performed well at the London Olympics.

Pabien John!




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Caribbean Festival is tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Caribbean Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival, from 6:00 to 9:15 p.m., revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

A full roster of some of Aruba's finest criollo entertainers follows including folkloric musical groups, dance groups solo singers, limbo dance by "Miguel Philips" and Carnival show by "Carna-Aruba," and this is only on the main stage!

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surround by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner, including music by steel pan and Brass band."

Island visitors can enjoy the Caribbean festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

First Agent Orange cleanup to start in Vietnam

For the first time since the end of the Vietnam War, the United States will start to clean up the herbicide Agent Orange used to defoliate forests during that guerrilla conflict.

The cleanup, which begins today at the former US military base of Da Nang, is a step forward in the ethics of modern warfare. It sets a precedent for how former foes can reconcile by taking responsibility for a war's aftereffects on health and the environment.

It also points to the need for the US to make sure it doesn't

leave any ecodisasters in Iraq and Afghanistan — such as open burn pits — when leaving the military bases in those war zones.

In Vietnam, the US plans to spend \$49 million to clean up several "hot spots" where the chemical dioxin in Agent Orange remains a health hazard by seeping into soils and watersheds. Between 1962 and 1971, the American military dumped about 20 million gallons of herbicides on jungles and mangroves to expose communist fighters. The area ex-

posed is estimated to be the size of Massachusetts. In the initial cleanup, millions of tons of soil will be removed to get rid of the toxin. Private donors are being sought to help pay for what may eventually be a \$450 million price tag for helping Vietnam end the problem.

The US effort is the result of steady reconciliation with Vietnam since 1996 when the two countries began formal ties. They are now fast removing many irritants, such as their long dispute over the harmful legacy of Agent Or-

ange.

Although the countries' economic and military ties are blossoming, progress on addressing the dioxin legacy has been slow. Washington still disputes a claim by Hanoi that between 3 million to 4 million Vietnamese were affected by toxic chemicals sprayed by U.S. planes during the war to eliminate jungle cover for guerrilla fighters, arguing that the actual number is far lower and other environmental factors are to blame for the health issues.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Syria army claims control of Aleppo rebel redoubt

DAMASCUS (AFP) - Syria said its troops seized a rebel-held Aleppo district yesterday after storming it and "annihilating" most of the insurgents, as a long-threatened ground assault on the key city was launched.

The rebels promptly denied the claim, acknowledging that a "barbaric and savage attack" on the neighbourhood of Salaheddin was under way but later saying they had recaptured much of what they lost.

The offensive came as Amnesty International raised concerns about the plight of civilians in the commercial capital and warned both sides they would be held accountable for attacks on residential areas.

Early in the afternoon, state news agency SANA said "our brave armed forces have taken full control of the district of Salaheddin" and "inflicted heavy losses on groups of armed terrorists, killing or wounding a large number of them."

Dozens of rebels were captured, including foreigners, and others surrendered, SANA said. It said troops seized a large number of arms used by rebels "to terrify the inhabitants and to murder members of the forces of order."

State television said the "armed forces dealt violent blows to the mercenary terrorists" in Salaheddin, "annihilating most of the terrorists."

But rebel Free Syrian Army (FSA) spokesman Colonel Abdel Jabbar al-Oqaidi said "it is not true the regime army has seized control of the district."

"It is true that there is a barbaric and savage attack," he told AFP via Skype. "They are using all the weapons at their disposal to attack Salaheddin, including fighter jets, tanks and mortars."

He said there was fighting in many districts, but it was concentrated on Salaheddin because of the "great symbolic value for us and the army."

Hours later, rebel commander Wassel Ayub said the FSA had launched a counter-attack and retaken part of Salaheddin.

"For an hour and a half, the Free Syrian Army has staged a counter-attack and reclaimed three streets out of five seized by regime forces," he told AFP by telephone.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the rebels were making gains. At least 33 people were killed in Aleppo, with a total of at least 98 people across the country, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

"Initial reports show that nine rebel fighters and at least 10 regime troops were killed in fighting in Salaheddin today," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman.

A total of 225 people -- mostly civilians -- died in Syria on Tuesday, one of the worst days for casualties in the nearly 17-month uprising the Observatory said last week had cost more than 21,000 lives.

Pending execution of the warrant, Sanchez was hunkered down yesterday in a building owned by the national defence ministry in Osuna, near Seville, which he and labour union activists have occupied for the past fortnight.

"What we did was expropriate food and hand it to soup kitchens," said one of the activists of the regional union SAT, Jose Caballero.

"If that is a crime, let them arrest us all," he told AFP. "What is inhuman and illegal is that a person has to search in the bin for something to eat."

The ministry issued "an arrest warrant against the people involved in yesterday's looting, because there was a complaint by Mercadona," a chain of giant supermarkets, a spokeswoman said.

The collapse of its major construction industry. Andalusia's unemployment rate is nearly 34 percent. They filled trolleys with packets of food such as pasta, oil and biscuits, to give out to the poor who they say do not have enough money to feed themselves in the economic crisis.

The interior ministry issued the warrant for the group including its leader Juan Manuel Sanchez Gordillo, who is a member of the regional parliament for the United Left party in Andalusia, southern Spain.

The group raided two supermarkets in Andalusia, a region particularly hard hit by a recession brought on by the

Obama calls India PM to offer condolences over shooting

ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE (AFP) - US President Barack Obama yesterday called Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to offer condolences over the shooting at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, in which six people, including several Indian nationals, were killed.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said Obama paid tribute in the call to the contribution of the Sikh community in the United States and that the two leaders spoke of their shared commitment to tolerance and religious freedom.

The killings occurred during Sunday services when

Wade Michael Page, a singer in a neo-Nazi punk band, burst into a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin and opened fired on worshippers with a 9mm handgun.

The FBI said earlier yesterday that Page, 40, killed himself with a gunshot to the head Sunday after being shot in the stomach by a police officer called to the scene.

US investigators have yet to establish a motive for the killings, but they are looking into Page's links with white supremacist hate groups.

Flooding brings chaos to Philippine Capital



Rescuers row an inflatable boat as they help residents evacuate at a flooded village in Marikina City, Metro Manila, the Philippines. At least 19 people have died in severe floods in the Philippine capital, Manila, and nearby areas. More than 80,000 people are being looked after in emergency shelters, with torrential rain leaving low-lying areas underwater. Rescuers are using rubber boats to reach stranded people, but some have refused to leave amid fears of looting. The flooding - neck-deep in some parts of the city - forced the closure of offices and schools. More than half the amount of rain normally seen in August has fallen in the capital in 24 hours, reports say. In the worst reported incident of casualties, nine members of one family died when a landslide hit shanty houses in Manila's Quezon City. Others died from drowning and electrocution, according to the country's disaster response agency. A state of calamity has been issued in at least four areas, it added.

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Typhoon Haikui causes widespread damage in China

SHANGHAI (AFP) - A typhoon slammed into eastern China yesterday, the country's third in a week, killing at least three people and causing more than \$1.5 billion in damage, state media said.

Typhoon Haikui made landfall early yesterday morning in Zhejiang province south of Shanghai, after authorities moved nearly two million people to safety, the official Xinhua news agency said.

Shanghai media reported that glass falling from a building killed a 57-year-old woman and the collapse of a small chemical factory led to the death of a young boy sheltering inside with his family.

The city's flood control and drought relief headquarters confirmed the deaths and said seven other people were also injured in typhoon-triggered accidents, Xinhua reported.

Another person was killed

in neighbouring Anhui province, where 26,000 were evacuated, local authorities said.

In Zhejiang province, the storm affected more than four million people, causing economic losses of over 10 billion yuan (\$1.57 billion), destroying about 4,400 houses and 185,000 hectares of crops, according to provincial flood control headquarters.

The storm had cut off electricity to nearly 400,000 households in the province, Xinhua said.

And in Dongling village, hundreds of stranded tourists and locals were forced to drink rainwater after the typhoon blocked roads and destroyed drinking facilities, Xinhua said.

Haikui did not make a direct hit on Shanghai -- mainland China's financial hub -- but the city raised its most se-

vere typhoon signal shortly before midday yesterday and urged people to stay home.

The typhoon knocked down trees, halted hundreds of flights at the city's two airports and suspended some long-distance train services. The Shanghai stock market operated normally despite the typhoon.

Construction sites and public parks were ordered to be shut.

Shanghai officials moved 374,000 people to emergency shelters, amid fears the storm could be the worst since 2005, when Typhoon Matsa killed seven people in the city.

By late afternoon the typhoon had been downgraded to a severe tropical storm but was moving slowly and authorities warned continued heavy rains in Zhejiang could bring mudslides and urban flooding.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Authorities: Top Colombian drug trafficker arrested

BOGOTA (AFP) - The leader of a major drug trafficking organization known as the "Oficina de Envigado" was arrested yesterday in the north-eastern city of Medellin, Colombian authorities said.

Calling the arrest of Erikson Vargas a "death blow" to the crime group, President Juan Manuel Santos said at a news conference that he would be extradited to the United States.

Police said he was arrested in Medellin in an operation in which another member of Vargas' group was killed and several others arrested.

Vargas assumed leadership of the Envigado organization after the November 2011 arrest

of its previous leader, Maximiliano Bonilla, in Venezuela. Bonilla, known as Valenciano, was extradited to the United States in December 2011.

Based in the northeastern region of Antioquia, the Envigado crime group is considered one of the most potent of Colombia's drug trafficking organizations.

The group was formed in the 1980s by Pablo Escobar, the notorious leader of the Medellin cartel.

After his death, control of the group passed to the Self-Defense Units of Colombia, a rightwing paramilitary group that was later disbanded as part of a peace process.

18 Cubans reach Florida in makeshift boat

MIAMI (AFP) - A group of 18 Cuban refugees landed on a Florida beach early yesterday after a five-day sea passage aboard a makeshift vessel powered by a Russian automobile engine, the US Border Patrol said.

The craft was spotted by the West Palm Beach police after it came ashore on Riviera Beach at about 2:00 am, said Border Patrol agent Frank Miller.

Miller said the group of 16 men and two women told au-

thorities they had departed from Manati, Cuba on Friday.

"They came in a homemade boat that is in very bad shape, was about 21 feet and they put on a 1950s Russian car engine that seemed to work," he said.

The Cubans remained in custody yesterday while officials processed them for release under US immigration laws, which gives Cuban refugees automatic entry if they reach US dry land. Those intercepted at sea are repatriated.

Buenos Aires crippled by metro strike



BUENOS AIRES : AFP photo shows people waiting for a bus in Constitucion neighbourhood during the fifth day of strike by subway workers in Buenos Aires on August 8, 2012. More than a million users have been affected by the strike held by subway workers, who demand a 20 percent increase in their salaries. The metro workers union is threatening to extend its strike if their wage demands are not discussed -- and the city and federal government are pointing fingers at each other over who should handle it. The 2,500 workers are demanding a 28 percent raise in pay, but union leader Nestor Segovia said "no one has called us to negotiate."

Health & Living

Mexico destroys 8 mn chickens amid bird flu outbreak



MEXICO CITY (AFP) - Eight million chickens have so far been slaughtered in Mexico and 66 million more were vaccinated in a bid to contain a bird flu outbreak in the west of the country, authorities said yesterday.

The agriculture ministry said in a statement that during the vaccination process in the Los Altos region of Jalisco state, diseased chickens were identified, leading to the de-

struction of the flu-carrying fowl.

Food safety officials say the outbreak, which was first detected on June 20, is confined to Los Altos, which is an egg-producing area. Inspections in other parts of the country have not turned up any signs of the disease.

A national animal health emergency was declared at the beginning of July, and the prices of both eggs and chick-

ens have skyrocketed.

Mexican authorities hope to vaccinate 80 million fowl in the first phase of its program, and then analyze the results before proceeding to phase two.

The virus responsible for the outbreak, H7N3, has occasionally caused human disease in various parts of the world, according to the United Nations, but has not shown itself to be easily transmittable between humans.

Some bird flu strains, such as H5N1, have caused serious infections in people. The World Health Organization has documented 607 human cases of bird flu since 2003, 358 of which were fatal, according to July data.

Authorities in Guatemala have stepped up safety checks on its border with Mexico to keep bird flu from spreading into the country.

Gaza warns of health crisis as Egypt closes border

GAZA CITY, Palestinian Territories (AFP) - Egypt's closure of the Rafah border

crossing may lead to a serious health disaster, Gaza's health authority warned.

Clinton signs new deal to fight AIDS in South Africa



CAPE TOWN (AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Wednesday signed a new deal supporting efforts to fight AIDS in South Africa, which has the world's biggest population of people with HIV.

The United States has spent \$3.2 billion since 2004 supporting South Africa's fight against AIDS. The new five-year agreement gives South Africa's government more control over the spending.

The agreement highlights South Africa's shift from an international pariah on AIDS,

under former president Thabo Mbeki, who refused to believe the scientific evidence that AIDS is caused by a virus -- to a celebrated one.

Now the country runs the world's largest AIDS treatment programme, with more than 1.3 million people receiving drugs, out of a total infected population of 5.6 million.

The rate of newborns catching the disease from their mothers during childbirth has fallen from 8 percent in 2008 to 2.7 percent last year.

Following the killing of 16 troops by gunmen near the Israeli border on Sunday night, Egypt closed "until further notice" its Rafah border post with Gaza, the Palestinian territory's only crossing outside Israeli control.

"The decision to close the Rafah crossing to patients and humanitarian cases will add to their suffering and harm their health, and could lead to a serious health disaster," health ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said.

Qudra noted that many patients were awaiting permission to travel into Egypt for medical treatment.

"For Palestinians, it is the only way out to the world and it gives hope to hundreds of patients with serious health problems," said Qudra, noting that many kinds of medicine were not available in the Hamas-controlled territory.

Gaza has been under semi-blockade by Israel and Egypt since Hamas took over the enclave.



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Skin care: 5 tips for healthy skin



Good skin care — including sun protection and gentle cleansing — can keep your skin healthy and glowing for years to come.

Don't have time for intensive skin care? Pamper yourself with the basics. Good skin care and healthy lifestyle choices can help delay the natural aging process and prevent many skin problems. Get started with these five no-nonsense tips.

*1. Protect yourself from the sun

The most important way to take care of your skin is to protect it from the sun. Sun exposure can also cause more-serious problems, such as skin cancer.

*2. Don't smoke

Smoking makes your skin look older and contributes to wrinkles.

*3. Treat your skin gently

Daily cleansing and shaving can take a toll on your skin, so keep it gentle:

-Limit bath time. Hot water and long showers or baths remove oils from your skin.

-Avoid strong soaps.

-Shave carefully. To protect and lubricate your skin, apply shaving cream, lotion or gel before shaving.

-Pat dry. After washing or bathing, gently pat or blot your skin dry with a towel so that some moisture remains on your skin.

-Moisturize dry skin.

*4. Eat a healthy diet

A healthy diet can help you look and feel your best. Eat plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean proteins.

*5. Manage stress

Uncontrolled stress can make your skin more sensitive and trigger acne breakouts and other skin problems.



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Sci-Tech

Interpol issues notice for arrest of Sea Shepherd founder



LYON (AFP) - Interpol has issued an international Red Notice for the arrest of fugitive eco-warrior Paul Watson, the founder of marine conservation group Sea Shepherd, after he skipped bail in Germany.

Watson was arrested in May in Frankfurt on a warrant from Costa Rica, where he is wanted on charges stemming from a high-seas confrontation over shark finning in 2002.

Lyon-based Interpol does not have the power to issue international arrest warrants but can request member countries make arrests based on foreign warrants.

Watson was detained in Germany for a week in May before being released on bail after paying 250,000 euros (\$310,000) and being ordered to appear before police twice a day. But he skipped bail on July 22 and fled the country.

Watson, a 61-year-old Canadian known to his supporters as "The Captain", is a veteran campaigner whose Sea Shepherd organisation is known for its muscular attacks on Japanese whalers.

Without revealing Watson's location, the organisation denounced Interpol's notice as part of a politically motivated attack led by Costa Rica on Japan's behalf.

In a statement last week, Watson accused Japan of conspiring with Germany and Costa Rica to hunt him down in revenge for his attacks on its whaling operations.

Watson said Costa Rica and Germany had been "pawns in the Japanese quest to silence Sea Shepherd", which has for years clashed with harpoon ships in the Southern Ocean.

He also did not reveal his location in the message.



BEIJING (AFP) - Noted director James Cameron launched on Wednesday a joint venture aimed at developing 3D cinema in China, a country which he says offers the best prospects for expanding the technology. Cameron, who is convinced that the transition of the film industry from 2D to 3D is inevitable, told a news conference: "China is the most fertile soil to plant that seed". The director's Cameron/Pace Group (CPG), which specialises in 3D technology, is partnering with two Chinese firms from the city of Tianjin, Tianjin High-Tech Holding and Tianjin North Group, to create CPG China. Cameron hopes to take advantage of a box-office explosion in China, where the film industry is booming and the number of cinemas is on the rise, potentially offering one of the most lucrative markets in the world. He directed the two most profitable films in cinematic history, "Titanic" and "Avatar", which also broke records in China.

New Location

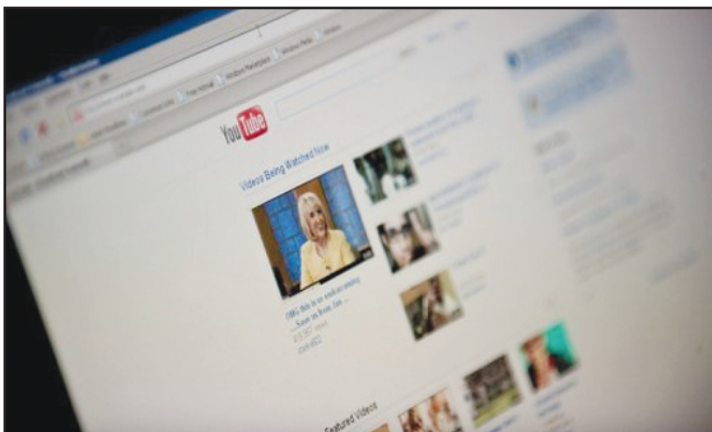
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YouTube dropped from iPhone-iPad operating system



(AFP) - Applications to let users watch YouTube videos will not be pre-installed on the next generation of iPhones, iPads and iPod devices, in another sign of mounting rivalry between Apple and Google.

People will still be able to watch YouTube videos on Apple's globally popular products by linking to the service through a Web browser, but will not have the viewer software architecture pre-loaded in the unit.

Google is expected to design a feature-rich YouTube application for Apple's online App Store as an alternative.

The change came as competition between Apple and YouTube parent Google intensified and relations between the California companies grow ever colder.

Google is the titan behind Android software powering

smartphones and tablets challenging Apple in the booming mobile market.

Apple recently booted Google Maps software from its gadgets, replacing it with a custom mapping program.

Apple tailored a YouTube application for iOS under terms of a license that recently expired. It was unclear on yesterday why the companies didn't renew the license.

A YouTube icon had been among those that automatically appeared on home screens of iPhones, iPads and iPod touch devices from the moment they were first powered up.

Next-generation iOS 6 software is due for release in the coming months, probably with a new version of the iPhone.

Google in June took the web browser battle to iPads and iPhones with the release of Chrome software for popular Apple devices built with Safari online surfing programs at heart.

Safari remains the default browser used in Apple gadgets and the "engine" that Chrome or other web-surfing applications has to rely on.

Google share price shed a few cents to \$642.78 during Nasdaq trading on Tuesday and Apple stock slid slightly to \$622.23.

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COMICS

PICKLES

I CAN'T BRUSH MY TEETH. THE BATTERY IN MY TOOTHBRUSH IS DEAD.

YOU CAN STILL USE IT, EVEN WITHOUT A BATTERY. IT JUST TAKES A LITTLE MORE EFFORT. GO TRY IT.

BUT BEFORE YOU DO, GO CHANGE THE TV TO CHANNEL TWO FOR ME, WILL YOU?

ISN'T THE REMOTE WORKING?

NO, THE BATTERY IS...OHH...NEVER MIND. JUST GO CHANGE IT.

MOMMA

FRANCIS THE WAY YOU EAT, YOU'LL GET VERY SICK!

YOU'RE SO LAZY, YOU'LL BE AN IMPOVERISHED FAILURE ALL YOUR LIFE!

YOUR GIRLFRIEND IS THE TYPE WHO'LL MAKE YOU MISERABLE!

WHY DO YOU VISIT YOUR MOM SO OFTEN?

SHE GIVES ME A SENSE OF SECURITY.


CALVIN and HOBBS

WHY DO YOU SLEEP SO MUCH?

I LIKE TO BE RESTED WHEN THINGS START TO HAPPEN.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? NOTHING EVER HAPPENS AROUND HERE! GIVE ME A BREAK!

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MAP BREAKDOWN

ACROSS
1. Antlered animal
4. "Revenge" network
7. Landmark in Berlin, once
11. Virginia Clemm's husband
12. Attired
14. "Double Stuff" cookie
15. Caravansary
16. Yellowfin, e.g.
17. Crow's-nest location
18. Nicolas Cage-Meg Ryan film
21. What Sandy says
22. Bannen of

"Waking Ned Devine"

23. Eventually

26. Fast plane, now grounded

27. Actress Farrow

30. "New Yorker" section, with "The"

34. Winker

35. Merry month

36. Already briefed

37. Radon, e.g.

38. Small piece

40. Cash offering

46. Red ____

47. O.K. Corral figure

48. Trouble

49. God who

supported the Trojans

50. Muses count

51. English botanical gardens site

52. Broadway hit of the '90s

53. Andrea ____ Sarto

54. Gal of song

DOWN
1. Like a Charlton Heston film
2. Anderson of "Nurses"
3. One of White's reporters
4. Oscar nominee, sometimes

5. Fool, at the poker table

6. Where water became wine

7. "Designing ____"

8. Uzbekistan's sea

9. Without: suffix

10. Man with a salty wife

13. From Jutland

19. Sudden jerk

20. Garden entrance

23. Had supper

24. Vetoing vote

25. Rah, to Juan

26. Pig's digs

27. Clean the kitchen floor

28. ____ Jima

29. Actress Blyth

31. Muscat's land

32. Secure

33. Ballet wear

37. Poet Edgar

38. Talking Head David

39. Activate

40. Caution

41. "Song of the ____ Road" (Whitman)

42. Sudden attack

43. Elite clothing store, for short

44. Rand Corp. commodity

45. Batman's wear


46. Paving liquid

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Sudoku



	5				9			
		9	1	5	6		4	
7			4			9	5	
	7	5	8			6	1	4
1		6				8		2
3	8	4			1	5	9	
	3	8			7			6
	1		6	2	4	3		
			9				7	

SOLUTION

5	2	1	8	3	6	7	9	4
6	8	9	7	2	9	1	5	3
9	7	2	1	5	8	3	6	4
2	6	5	1	9	7	8	3	4
7	8	3	9	4	1	6	2	5
4	1	9	6	8	5	2	7	3
1	5	6	7	8	9	4	3	2
8	9	7	6	2	1	5	4	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

ING takes 'aggressive' steps to cut Spain exposure

AMSTERDAM--Dutch financial services company ING Groep NV said yesterday it took aggressive steps to reduce its exposure to Spain, as it seeks to tackle a funding imbalance that could pose a serious threat should Spain eventually exit the euro zone.

The Netherlands' largest bank by assets said it took a loss of 234 million (\$290 million) in the April-July period as the price for reducing the risks. It said it cut its total exposure by EUR6.2 billion to EUR34.9 billion, mainly by scaling back lending and selling debt securities like covered bonds and mortgage-backed securities.

Worries about ING's ties to Spain have smouldered for

months. Apart from potential losses on souring loans and investments, analysts have also warned for a potential funding squeeze in case the country's crisis escalates.

Through its online bank franchise ING Direct, a successful deposit generator, the Dutch group has built up a significant presence in the country. But the unit, which is based in Madrid, also serves as an investment vehicle for other ING

Direct-franchises in Europe and has used some of their funds to originate loans and invest in Spanish assets, such as covered bonds.

This created a mismatch between assets and liabilities and ING's business in Spain became heavily reliant on funding from operations elsewhere in Europe. This would pose a serious risk in case Spain ditches the euro, analyst at JPMorgan said in a June report.

Greece unlikely to get bailout funds before October

BRUSSELS (AFP) - International auditors will remain in Athens all of September, a European source said yesterday, meaning Greece will unlikely get its next instalment of bailout funds before October.

Auditors from Greece's international creditors "will remain in Greece the entire month of September in order to present European finance ministers in October agreed measures, a credible and solid plan for Greece," said the official who asked not to be identified.

A favourable report from the auditors of the so-called troika of the European Union,

International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank is key to disburse its part of Greece's next instalment of 31.5 billion euros in rescue funds.

The disbursement had previously been expected in September, already a delay due to a two-month political deadlock caused by back-to-back elections in May and June.

The delay could pose difficulties for the Greek government, which is already expected to resort to issuing fresh short-term debt in order to repay 3.2 billion euros to the ECB on August 20.

Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of: 08/08/2012

Currency	Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.76	1.78	1.80
Britain	GBP	2.72	2.77	2.83
Switzerland	CHF	182.71	183.43	184.23
Netherlands	EUR	217.72	219.71	221.23
Sweden	SEK	25.56	26.28	27.08
Denmark	DKK	28.54	29.26	30.06
Norway	NOK	29.11	29.83	30.63
Japan	JPY	225.20	227.26	229.54

(per 10,000)

All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.

Fannie Mae scores 2nd straight quarterly profit

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Improving home prices helped US mortgage finance giant Fannie Mae to its second straight quarterly profit Wyesterday after a 10-quarter loss streak.

Fannie Mae reported a \$5.17 billion net profit for the period to June 30, compared with a \$2.9 billion loss a year earlier and up from \$2.7 billion in earnings in the first quarter.

After paying a \$2.93 billion dividend on the government's preferred shares, earnings were \$2.18 billion.

Fannie Mae declared it needed no taxpayer funding for the second quarter. On Tuesday its sister mortgage firm Freddie Mac also reported second-quarter profits and no request for a capital injection from the US Treasury.

Fannie Mae posted revenues of \$5.8 billion in the second quarter, up from \$5.2 billion a year earlier. The company said it had slashed its loan loss reserves to contribute to the profits surge as improved home prices helped

push delinquencies lower.

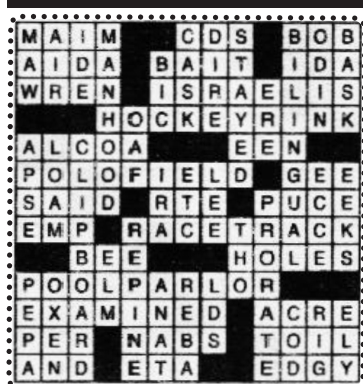
"Better market conditions and our actions to strengthen Fannie Mae's new business and limit losses from the company's legacy business contributed to positive second-quarter results," said chief executive Timothy Mayopoulos in a statement.

"While it is too early to declare a national housing recovery, and our results for the second half of 2012 may not be as strong as the first half, we expect our financial results in 2012 to be substantially better than the past few years."

Savaged during the financial and housing industry crisis of 2007-2008, the company was bailed out by the US government, which spent more than \$180 billion saving it and Freddie Mac and put them under federal control.

Together the two hold or guarantee around half of the mortgages in the United States. Fannie issues nearly half of all mortgage-related securities for single-family home loans.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



ATHENS : Greek Agriculture bank employees shout slogans on August 8, 2012 during a demonstration in the center of Athens. Standard & Poor's cut Greece's debt rating outlook to negative on August 7, saying the worsening economy and political challenges could soon force another downgrade. (AFP PHOTO)

Oh No..., Elton John brands Madonna 'fairground stripper'



HAPPIER TIMES: Elton and Madonna performed together during the Rainforest Concert in 1998.

SYDNEY (AFP) - Elton John has reignited his public spat with Madonna, calling her a "fairground stripper" whose career is over.

The British star added that she had been "so horrible" to pop diva Lady Gaga, the godmother to his son Zachary.

"She's such a nightmare. Her career is over, I can tell you that," he told music personality Molly Meldrum, an

old friend, in an interview on Australian television this week. "Her tour has been a disaster," he said.

"If Madonna has any common sense, she would have made a record like 'Ray of Light', stayed away from the dance stuff and just been a great pop singer and make great pop records, which she does brilliantly. "But no... and she looks like a fucking fair-

ground stripper.

"She's been so horrible to Gaga," he added.

It is not the first time Elton John has hit out at Madonna, blasting her acceptance speech at the Golden Globes this year as "embarrassing".

But he only had good words for Lady Gaga.

"She's amazing. Wherever she is in the world, she sends texts asking how he (Zachary) is. She's a good godmother, she really pays attention," he said.

Zachary was born in late 2010 to Elton John and his partner David Furnish, and they are planning another child.

"In the future I think we will definitely have another kid," Elton John said in the interview.

"I don't want him to be an only child, it's bad enough being the child of someone famous and I want him to have a relationship with a brother or sister, without question."

Elton John has sold more than 250 million records in a career spanning four decades and the singer-songwriter was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994.

Jennifer Lopez files \$20 million extortion suit

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez has filed a \$20 million lawsuit against a former driver whom she claims threatened to spill her secrets if she did not pay him \$2.8 million, court records showed Tuesday.

Lopez, 42, maintains that Hakob Manoukian, who was in charge of her security and transportation, engaged in extortion, attempted extortion and conspiracy.

Manoukian, who started working for the star in 2005, has also been clashing with her manager, Benny Medina, over alleged contractual differences.

Lopez alleges that Manoukian wanted more money and additional control of her security team. She is seeking \$20 million in damages, the documents filed in Los Angeles Superior Court show.

On July 13, Lopez announced she was quitting ratings-challenged TV talent show "American Idol," a day after fellow judge Steven Tyler announced his departure. She is also singing on tour with co-headliner Enrique Iglesias.

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The Occidental Grand Aruba would like to congratulate two distinguished and delightful couples who were honored in the year 2010 as Ambassadors of Aruba:

Mr. Erise Rhusha Scales & Mrs. Aleta Scales; who has been visiting Aruba since 1998 and And Mr. Robert Peppers & Mrs. Sandra Peppers who has been visiting Aruba since 1975. Both couples are very honored by this recognition and take their role as Aruba Ambassadors very seriously. Never the less to mention that Occidental Grand Aruba is also honored to have them as their loyal guests.

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SEOUL (AFP) - North Korea's young first lady has been pictured sporting what appears to be a Christian Dior handbag, in stark contrast to widespread shortages elsewhere in the impoverished nation. Ri Sol-Ju, the wife of leader Kim Jong-Un, was pictured accompanying him on a "field guidance trip" to an army unit. It was unclear whether the bag was genuine or an imitation. South Korea's JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said Wednesday it would cost 1.8 million won (\$1,594) in Seoul. Photos, carried by state television and the official news agency, show the couple applauding while seated together watching outdoor art performances by soldiers.

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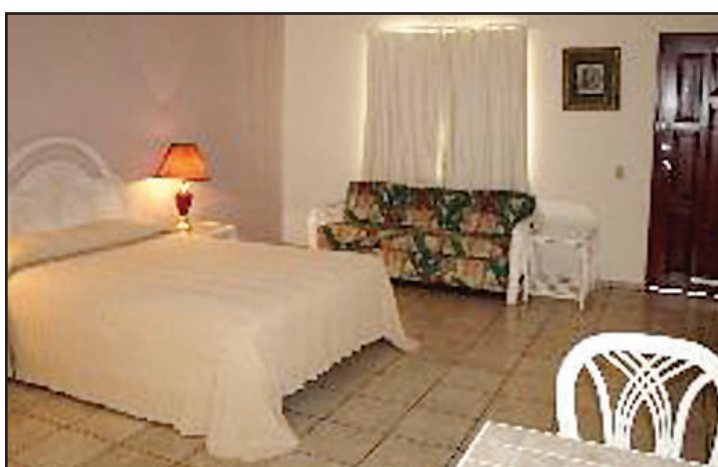
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with stove top, refrigerator, toaster/oven and coffee maker (microwave optional). The apartments are air-conditioned, with daily maid service, private parking and a mini market.

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Clinton praises Mandela example of reconciliation



CAPE TOWN(AFP) - US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised South African democracy icon Nelson Mandela for giving her the "greatest lesson" of humanity by reaching out to his apartheid jailers.

Clinton told how Mandela had named three, white former prison warders who had treated him with dignity as his most important guests at his inauguration lunch after he was sworn as South Africa's

first democratic leader in 1994.

"When I walked out of prison, I knew I had a choice to make, I could have bitterness and the hatred of what had been done to me... and I would still be in prison. Or I could begin to reconcile the feelings inside myself with my fellow human beings," she quoted Mandela as telling his guests.

"That is the true legacy of

president Mandela -- calling all of us to complete the work he started. To overcome the obstacles, the injustices, the mistreatments that everyone, every one of us will encounter at some point in our lives."

Clinton said she was honoured to have had lunch on Monday with the 94-year-old in his rural home where he is living out his retirement and urged South Africa to build on his efforts.

"That is truly what South Africa is called to do, to continue the struggle but the struggle for human dignity, the struggle for respect, the struggle to lift people up and give children the chance, every boy and girl, to fulfil his or her God given potential," she said.

"The man who did so much to shape the history of a free South Africa has never stopped thinking about the future of South Africa," she said.

Steak on a Stone-Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambience.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection

and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast buffet for \$9.95, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!



Summer Olympics: July 27 - August 12



Third time lucky as Felix wins women's 200m gold



BOLZANA, Italy - Disgraced Italian race walker Alex Schwazer broke down in tears as he admitted buying banned substance EPO and even lying about it to his fiancée as he stored it in their fridge. Schwazer said also that he is open to Beijing retest. Schwazer won gold at Beijing four years ago, after being a bronze medallist at the 2005 and 2007 World Championships. The walker, 27, tested positive this week for the banned blood booster EPO, which he said he had purchased from a pharmacy in Turkey, after looking on the internet to find out where he could buy it without having a prescription. He said his decision to take EPO was driven by his increasing unhappiness over his life as a top sportsman, insisting he is relieved it is all over. He had been one of Italy's best medal hopes in London after a solid start to the season which saw him clock the fourth best time of his career.



LONDON (AFP) - Middle distance runner Sarah Attar made history on Wednesday, becoming the first female athlete to represent Saudi Arabia in Olympics track and field -- but limped home a distant last in her heat. Attar, one of two women sent to the London Games by Saudi Arabia, timed 2min 44.95sec in heat six of round one of the 800m, nearly 44sec behind Kenya's Janeth Busienei (2:01.04). Wearing a white hood, long-sleeved green top and black leggings, the 19-year-old student described appearing in the Olympics as "an incredible experience." "It is the hugest honour to be here to represent the women of Saudi Arabia," said Attar, born and raised in the United States. "It is a historic moment. I hope it will make a difference. It is a huge step forward. It's a really incredible experience." Attar's run in London comes just days after Saudi team-mate Wojdan Shaherkani appeared in the judo competition, with her historic debut lasting just 82 seconds. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Brunei are all fielding female participants in the Olympics for the first time this year.



LONDON (AFP) - America's Allyson Felix made it third time lucky to win the Olympic 200m crown here Wednesday and deny Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce a sprint double.

Felix, a silver medallist at the 2004 and 2008 Games over the distance, powered to victory in 21.88sec to thwart Fraser-Pryce's hopes of adding the 200m title to her 100m crown.

Fraser-Pryce took silver in 22.09sec with Carmelita Jeter of the United States winning bronze in 22.14sec.

Jamaica's Veronica Campbell-Brown - chasing a his-

toric third consecutive Olympic 200m gold after pipping Felix at the two previous games - was fourth in a time of 22.38sec.

"Finally! It has been a long time coming," said Felix. "I've waited so long for this moment, for so long, and I am just overjoyed. There are so many people I love here tonight and I am just overjoyed to share it with them."

"I thought back to the disappointment in Beijing (where she won silver in 2008). It's been a long road, I never wanted to give up. It's been a journey - never easy,

but you can't lose sight of your dream. It's just awesome, I've wanted it for so long. This moment is really priceless."

She admitted it had been "tough" to lose to Campbell-Brown twice. "But it's all paying off. To get on the podium will be so emotional."

Felix, 26, looked smooth throughout, coming off the bend with a significant lead and holding her nerve in the home stretch to win a long-overdue first gold.

Although a three-time world champion over 200m, the Californian could only manage bronze at last year's world championships in Daegu, South Korea.

But she came into the Olympics in top form having clocked the fastest time in the world this year of 21.69sec at the US Olympic trials.

America's Sanya Richards-Ross, aiming to complete a rare 200m-400m double in London after winning the one-lap race earlier in the Games, finished fifth in 22.39sec.

Felix's victory is the United States' first gold in the event since 1992, when Gwen Torrence won in Barcelona -- and represents a rare recent success in the battle against sprinting powerhouse Jamaica.

The United States, formerly the undisputed kings of sprinting, have been forced to watch as the Caribbean island has stolen their mantle.

The Jamaicans dominated in Beijing in 2008, winning all four individual sprints and the men's 4x100m relay and Usain Bolt has already taken gold in the men's 100m in London and is on track for gold in the 200m.

Bolt and Blake ease into 200m final

LONDON (AFP) - Usain Bolt stayed on track for an Olympic sprint double as he and Jamaican rival Yohan Blake eased into today's final of the 200m with commanding runs in their semi-finals yesterday.

Blake strolled to victory in his heat in 20.01sec but eased up before the line, while 100m champion Bolt was imperious as he held off the field to win his race in 20.18sec, looking around all the way down the home straight.

"It was all about going through as easy as possible, that was the aim. I did pretty well so I am happy," Bolt said.

He said there was "no doubt whatsoever" that he would successfully defend the crown he won in Beijing four years ago.

"People always doubt the champion but I know what I

can do so I never doubt myself. This is my favourite event so I am looking forward to it."

Churandy Martina of the Netherlands won the third semi-final in a time of 20.17sec, with a third Jamaican, Warren Weir, qualifying behind him.

Wallace Spearmon will be the only US athlete in the final after he finished second behind Blake in 20.02sec.



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No rough-house tactics in women's final - US



LONDON (AFP) - United States skipper Abby Wambach has ruled out any chance of rough-house tactics marring today's Olympic football final as her side seeks to avenge their World Cup loss to Japan.

The defending champions take on the Japanese in front of a record 83,000 crowd at Wembley in the climax to a pulsating Olympic tournament which has been notable for a rugged, physical edge in several bruising encounters.

Wambach herself was the victim of a sly off-the-ball punch by a Colombian player during the first phase, while a slew of other matches have seen players flying into tackles with no quarter given.

However the veteran American striker believes today's showpiece between the two best sides in the world will be played in the right spirit.

scorer of two goals in Monday's thrilling 4-3 victory over Canada echoed Wambach's comments.

"Both teams have utmost respect for each other on a lot of different levels," Rapinoe said. "We just know that it's going to be a good game."

"There's no animosity. They snatched our dream last year (in the World Cup final) and still we have respect for them. There's nothing off the field, there's no antics."

Yet while the Americans are not expecting a dirty game, the champions are determined to avenge their agonising penalty shoot-out loss to the Japanese in the Women's World Cup final last year.

"It's redemption but it's also an opportunity, an opportunity to show the world that we're the best team in the world," said America's Carli Lloyd.

"This game is going to be different to the World Cup game. Every game is different. We're a different team and we're ready to bring it."

"We have such respect for each other that I can almost guarantee that none of that will happen tomorrow," Wambach said when asked about the physical nature of this year's tournament.

"Teams use those kind of tactics because they may not be better than us tactically or technically so they may think it evens things up."

"But the Japan team is so good, and we're so good, that tomorrow is going to be all about the soccer."

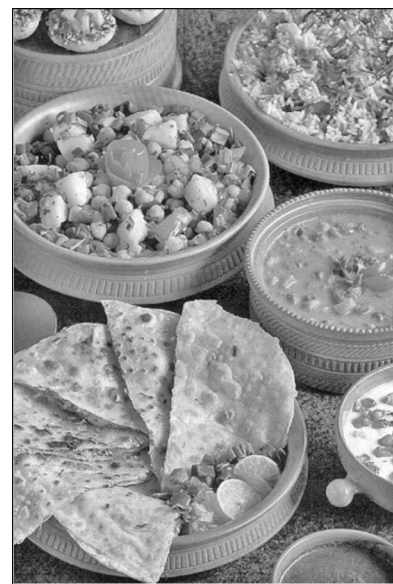
The United States superb fullback Megan Rapinoe,



LONDON : Netherlands' Gerco Schroder competes in the individual show Jumping final of the 2012 London Olympics at the Equestrian venue in Greenwich Park, London, August 8.



LONDON (AFP) - Defending champions Netherlands won the first ever Olympic Games hockey shoot-out to beat New Zealand and set-up a women's final against Argentina yesterday. World champions Argentina prevailed 2-1 over hosts Great Britain in the second semi-final. Friday's final, featuring the two top-ranked women's teams in the world, will be a rematch of the title encounter in the 2010 World Cup in Rosario. Netherlands won the Olympic Games women's hockey gold medal in 1984 and 2008, while Argentina's best was the silver medal in 2000.



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LONDON (AFP) - America's Misty May-Treanor and Kerri Walsh Jennings made Olympic history on Wednesday when they defeated compatriots Jen Kessy and April Ross to claim their third consecutive beach volleyball title. Watched by a crowd of 15,000 at London's Horse Guards Parade, which included Prince Harry and David Beckham, the All-American final saw May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings prevail in straight sets, 21-16, 21-16. May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings have never been beaten in three Olympic tournaments and have dropped just one set in that time, in a 2-1 pool phase win against Austrian sisters Doris and Stefanie Schwaiger last week. Sixth seeds Kessy and Ross had eliminated Brazilian favourites Juliana Silva and Larissa Franca in the semi-finals, but they had to make do with silver as May-Treanor, 35, brought the curtain down on her career in style. It was a third consecutive 2-0 Olympic final win for May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings, who took gold for the first time in Athens in 2004 before defending their crown four years later in Beijing. Beach volleyball was introduced to the Olympics in 1996 and May-Treanor and Walsh Jennings are the only pair to have successfully defended a women's title.



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Bolt edges closer to sprint history

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LONDON (AFP) - Usain Bolt moved to within one win of an unprecedented second successive Olympic sprint double here on Wednesday as he won his 200m semi-final in impressive fashion.

Bolt - who retained his 100 metres crown on Sunday - never had to move out of first gear in his semi-final as he won easily in 20.18sec ahead of young South African Anaso Jobodwana.

Victory for the 25-year-old Jamaican in Thursday's final would better the record of American legend Carl Lewis, who won three golds and a silver in the sprints at the 1984 and 1988 Games.

"The aim was all about just getting through," said Bolt, who has said he will only be

happy being called a legend if he wins the 200m title for a second time.

He said there was "no doubt whatsoever" that he would successfully defend the crown he won in Beijing four years ago.

Bolt said the final could well see his world record of 19.19sec tumble.

His main danger will come from compatriot and training partner Yohan Blake, who took silver in the 100 metres, as the man nicknamed "the Beast" also won his semi-final with ease.

The 22-year-old Jamaican insisted he could deny Bolt the title, the one the champion considers his favourite event, and that it may require a world record to do so.

Tennis: Murray defies fatigue to advance in Toronto



TORONTO (AFP) - Olympic gold medallist Andy Murray ground out a painful opening win at the Montreal Masters on yesterday as the second seed marshalled his resources for a 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Flavour Cupola.

The Scot who only arrived in Canada the day before after London Olympics media duties on Tuesday, took the hardcourt with minimal preparation but pulled off the win in just under 90 minutes thanks to some help from the ATP trainers.

The number four was treated on his left knee after breaking Cipolla for 3-2 in the second set. Murray was then constantly flexing the knee on his way to victory.

"I was stiff and sore," Murray said. "I had a lot of matches at the Olympics and this was my first match on hardcourt in four months."

The Scot won the Canadian

titles in 2009-10, but lost his opening match a year ago.

Organisers presented Murray with a huge chocolate cake celebrating his Olympic medal, with a replica of the honour and its ribbon made of icing.

Given a knife during an on-court ceremony, the gluten-free player gratefully cut off the huge medal corner and took a fork full.

"I haven't had much time since winning the gold," he said. "The last few days have been unbelievable - a bit surreal. I've been very busy but it's worth it."

While Murray survived, doubles silver medallist Jo-Wilfried Tsonga went down in his opening second-round singles, losing as French underdog Jeremy Chardy sprang a post-Olympic surprise on his third-seeded countryman 6-4, 7-6 (7/4).

Like Murray, Tsonga - who

has never lost before the semi-finals in Canada - said he was dead-tired.

"I'm disappointed because I lost it, but this is the rule. I have to play every week, I have to be here.

Chardy, ranked 47th, was playing for the second day in a row while Tsonga was on court three days after playing in the men's Olympics final with Michael Llodra against the American Bryan brothers.

French 14th seed Richard Gasquet opened with a victory over Mikhail Kukushkin of Kazakhstan 6-3, 7-5.

Tsonga was the day's most notable early victim of Olympic fatigue as the ATP schedule hits a run of two straight weeks of 1000-point events before the start of the US Open on August 27.

For Olympic participants, this week marks a return to North American hardcourts after nearly five months on clay and grass.

London bronze medallist Juan Martin del Potro, the Argentine sixth seed, went out to Czech Radek Stepanek 6-4, 7-6 (7/5).

Del Potro, a former US Open winner, wants to regain his full powers on court before the start of the final major of what has been a busy season. "This was my first match on hard courts since Miami (March).